

## GEORGE HYRUM BARZEE

George Hyrum Barzee, native of Bountiful, was born Sept. 10, 1860, to George and Amanda Buys Barzee and was raised by his grandmother Buys. His education began at an early age. In order for his Aunt Elizabeth Buys Sellers to receive an education, she had to take George to school and tend him; he took his naps on a bed in the corner made of coats. His regular schooling began at the age of four. His teachers were a Mrs. Farnum, then Hannah Holbrook. Her kitchen was the school room, and here he learned his ABC's. Their books were anything they could procure. At eight years of age, he read in the McGuffey third reader brought across the plains by his family in 1850. At this time, he completed the Webster Elementary Spelling Book with a large class, some of the boys were six feet tall and the girls were old enough to go to dances. At the age of 19, he went to what was called High School in Heber in the Bennie Norris' house, located in the corner of 2nd N. Main where the Highway Motel now stands. His uncle, William Buys, was the teacher. In 1882, he taught school, the Third Reader class in the "Upper" School House located where the First Ward Church now stands, with William Buys as Principal and teacher. Classes were taught by "readers" instead of "grades."

By saving his money, he was finally able to attend the University of Deseret, now U. of Utah, at the age of 26. In 1888-89 he taught school at Wallsburg, also at Charleston.

He helped with the first issue of the Wasatch Wave, Mar. 23, 1889. William Buys was founder and editor. He also served as editor Dec. 16, 1890, to Mar. 28, 1895, and again during and after the illness and death of Mr. Buys.

He took up the study of surveying under Mr. Buys and succeeded his Uncle Edward Buys as Surveyor of Wasatch County, which he held for many years. He was Justice of the Peace and married more than 56 couples during his term of office. He was also an Abstractor.

He was a booster for getting the telephone and railroad into Heber, and served as their first telephone operator. At that time, he was working in an office. They began with one telephone. If a message or

call would come, which was not too often, he would see that the people were notified.

He served as a member of the school board of trustees, and was Secretary-Treasurer of American Order of United Workmen, a lodge at that time. He passed away Oct. 26, 1927.

He married Emily Jane Carlile Sept. 10, 1891, and they had the following children: Cleo (Mrs. William McIntire), Emily (Mrs. Frank Conrad), Marie (Mrs. Bert Murray), Lavella (Mrs. Joseph Gillam).

Emily Jane Carlile Barzee was one of a family of six children. She was born Oct. 12, 1868, to James and Emily Ann Giles Carlile, some of the first settlers of this valley. Their home was at first a three-room log house, later replaced by a two story red brick house, 1st North and 3rd West.

Schools were not graded as they are today. They were graded by readers, first to eighth. Those who could afford it, finished their education in Provo or Salt Lake City. Her first teacher was Kezia Carroll Esplin, a cousin. The school was a one-room rock building situated in the northwestern part of town across the street from John W. Witt, now owned by his son Jesse Witt, 2nd W. 3rd N. The desks were wide boards, and a long bench without a back served as seats. Students would sit on both sides and study until class was called, then stand to recite.

Her next teacher was Nora Duke Cummings. Then later there were two teachers, Heber Moulton taught in the west end of the room and Frederick Giles in the east, with no division between. She also attended John Glenn's school in the same building. She finished her schooling at Sleepy Hollow school, Third South and Second West. Bishop Henry Clegg was the teacher. There was a fee of \$3.00 for nine months.

Sunday School was held in the afternoon. A ticket was given for each attendance, twelve tickets could be exchanged for a larger one and they were exchanged for a large picture or a book. She taught Sunday School for several years while William Lindsay was superintendent. She was active in LDS Relief Society and first assistant to Teenie Duke, Captain of the Wasatch County Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

Sleigh riding and dancing were chief amusements. The dances began at 8 p.m. and the fellows would draw for partners. A group of girls would prepare supper at 11:30, the

dance would resume and continue until 1 or 2 a.m.

She died Nov. 11, 1948.

Geo H Barzee

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## CHAPTER TEN

*Seek Ye Learning*

A human soul without education, Joseph Addison once wrote, is like marble in the quarry, which shows none of its inherent beauties till the skill of the polisher fetches out the colors, makes the surface shine, and discovers every ornamental cloud, spot and vein that runs through the body of it.

The dream of providing this polishing touch of life through good schools was ever-present with the early settlers of Heber City. As detailed in Chapter 6 they built early in their settlement a small, log school and then worked together to provide better one-room schools, then graded schools and finally the educational "star in their crown," the Wasatch High School.

As precious as education was to the early settlers, it still had to take second place to the winning of food from the earth to sustain life. Early educational efforts flourished during winter months when agricultural activity could easily be handled by the "older folks." Spring and summer schooling and learning in the fall was largely behind a plow and in the fields.

Heber's first school, the 20 by 40 foot, one-room building that served also as a Church house and community building, was located on the corner of 3rd North and 2nd West. A fireplace in each end of the building provided the only heat, and students would take turns getting warm as part of the class recited to the teacher and the other half studied around the fires. The building's dirt roof leaked so badly at times that school had to be discontinued while repairs were made.

By 1867 the Utah Territorial Legislature had passed an act that permitted communities, by a majority vote of the taxpayers, to maintain free schools by taxation. Until this time teachers had usually boarded at the homes of pupils and collected salaries in produce. Now, a new era for teachers and school building construction lay ahead.

A one-room rock school building was soon built across the street from the first log school, and then another one-room building, known as the East School, was built at 2nd North and 3rd East, where the First-Sixth Ward Chapel now stands.

Heber's next school building was the old "Sleepy Hollow" school, a one-room rock building in the southwest part of town at 2nd West and 3rd South.

One of the most forward looking steps in education came in 1892 when Henry Aird, a former teacher in the old rock East School, and

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## SEEK YE LEARNING



A popular school event in 1904 was this Washington Birthday's Parade. The crowd shown here had gathered at the corner of Main and Center Streets in Heber ready to parade through the streets in honor of the day.

then a student and graduate of the University of Utah, advocated the establishment of graded schools. He won the support of many community residents and work began on a two-story eight-room school building, known as the Central School. All elementary pupils of the city attended this Main Street school.

The people of Heber were genuinely proud of their new school, constructed almost entirely of sandstone taken from the Crook quarry in Lake Creek. Elisha Averett was the head stonecutter and cut to a fine precision the stones of the building. The structure faced west, and stones were fitted together in front to form a large arch over the entrance-way. The entrance was large enough to shelter the students in case of storms, and also made a shady playground area on sunny days. The school's main doors were at the rear of this entrance vestibule, and opened into a spacious hall that extended the full length of the building. The stairs to the upper floor were at the north of the hallway in the center of the building. On the landing where the stairs turned was an organ which was played for the students to march to or from classes.

The sound of a bell was the signal for students to get ready for marching, and when a second bell rang, everyone began marching four-abreast, with an arm's length between each file of marchers. The corners had to be turned with precision, and any unruly conduct was quickly detected by the teacher who promptly removed the misbehaving students from the line of march. It was an honor, and usually an award for good